

EAST COVENTRY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

SCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016

Attendance: Gail Brown (Chairperson), Scott Fitzgerald (Vice Chairperson), Penny Morton (Secretary), Ann Keen (Member), Larry Tietjen (Planning Commission Liaison/Member).

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by G. Brown, Chairperson.

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes: A motion was made by S. Fitzgerald to approve the meeting minutes of Wednesday, December 9, 2015 and was seconded by A. Keen. Approved 5-0-0

Public Comments: Michael Moyer, 320 Schoolhouse Rd., Pottstown, Pa. 18465 and Tony Duffy, 541 Stoneyrun Rd., East Coventry Township were present. Both are East Coventry Township Supervisors.

2016 Organization

1. Chairperson: A motion was made by P. Morton to nominate G. Brown which was seconded by S. Fitzgerald. Approved 5-0-0
2. Vice Chairperson: A motion was made by L. Tietjen to nominate S. Fitzgerald which was seconded by G. Brown. Approved 5-0-0
3. Secretary: A motion was made by L. Tietjen to nominate P. Morton which was seconded by S. Fitzgerald. Approved 5-0-0

Appointments

1. Oral History Committee: P. Morton made a motion to appoint S. Fitzgerald as Chairperson and was seconded by L. Tietjen. Approved 5-0-0
2. Archives Committee: A motion was made by S. Fitzgerald to appoint A. Keen as Chairperson and Mariea Geho as a member which was seconded by P. Morton. Approved 5-0-0
3. Fricks Locks Volunteer Tour Guide Committee: A motion was made by P. Morton to appoint G. Brown and P. Morton as Co-Chairpersons which was seconded by G. Brown. Approved 5-0-0
Also, a motion was made by G. Brown to continue Mariea Geho and Rugene Caldwell as members on this committee which was seconded by P. Morton. Approved 5-0-0
4. Historical Commission Meeting Dates/Time: L. Tietjen made a motion to continue monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the township building which was seconded by L. Tietjen. Approved 5-0-0

New Business

1. Discussion: Proposed Disc Golf course adjacent to the Historical Eligible property at 131 Maack Rd., East Coventry Township which has a historical landscape. Background information:

- Unauthorized clearing of small trees/brush has begun on this site.
 - Safety issue: discs can travel 50-75 mph and could hit a passerby on the trail.
 - Disc Golf tends to attract an influx of people especially for tournaments and there is little available parking and no rest room facilities.
 - It changes the look of the historic landscape.
 - The Open Space Committee's purpose is to protect open space/historic landscapes.
 - Concerns should be vetted by Parks and Recreation, Planning and Historical Commissions and other concerned groups/interests for consideration.
 - This property contains the historical resource of a stone wall and road going to the old school house now owned by the township as an open space (The Daniel Kulp Farm).
 - May want to change the name of this open space from the "Wineberry Property" to the "Daniel Kulp Farm" in the future.
 - G. Brown will draft a letter of recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to define these parameters (name of property, historical aspects) for the next February meeting.
 - For now, the Board of Supervisors has tabled further development of the property. T. Duffy and M. Moyer, Township Supervisors, stated that the Board never approved actions taken on this property but did make them cease and desist. Permission to do a walk-through only was given by the Board.
2. Trails, Greenways and Recreation Plan Task Force: G. Brown attended the Thursday, December 17, 2015 meeting and gave a report. Topics included the fact that there are very few large properties in East Coventry Township. They discussed the negative effects of proposed community gardens in Fricks Locks Village. They also discussed trails and tennis courts in the context of passive and active recreation.
 3. Schuylkill River Heritage Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016—Iron and Steel Heritage. Either G. Brown or S. Fitzgerald will attend.
 4. Schuylkill River Trail Pathway update: an updated map was developed which again runs past Fricks Locks Village.
 5. Fricks Locks Village seasonal tour signs – discussed need for more permanent signs.
 6. The Fricks Locks Village donation of \$1,000 to Chester County Historical Society was approved by the Board of Supervisors in December, 2015.

Old Business

1. Fricks Locks Stakeholders Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the township building. Dale Frens, LLC will be present.
2. Fricks Locks Committee agreed to meet on Saturday, January 16, 2016 at the township building in order to work on the tour script revision to include its Iron and Steel Heritage.
3. Senator Rafferty's Fricks Locks video – to be discussed at the next Stakeholders meeting.
4. Historical Commission Annual Report for 2015 should be ready by February, 2016.
5. Fricks Locks Village seasonal tour signs discussed – need more permanent signage.
6. Signage proposal for Fricks Locks Village: G. Brown distributed packages with materials on sign development which we'll work on next month.

Planning Commission Liaison Report – L. Tietjen

No meeting held last month.

Committees

1. Oral History Committee: S. Fitzgerald (Chairperson). Still working on setting up 1st interview.
2. Archives Committee: A. Keen (Chairperson). Ongoing filing continues. Also, sorting and filing a new donation received in December, 2015 from Ron Blye.
3. Fricks Locks Volunteer Tour Guide Committee: G. Brown, P. Morton (Co-Chairpersons). Working on the script rewrite and setting a tour guide “kick- off” lunch in March, 2016.

Other Business

We received a large donation from Rob Blye. A three page itemized list of photographs, books, and documents was provided for the archives.

Adjournment

A motion was made by P. Morton to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. and was seconded by L. Tietjen. Approved 5-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Penny Morton, Secretary